

phone system that includes an RF link from the cellular transceiver 66 to a cellular base unit, which connects to the normal wire, fiber, and satellite telephone system as shown in FIG. 11. Once the image transmission is complete, the image can be transmitted to other fax machines by entering the desired numbers using the keypad 58. The memory unit 64 can include prestored phone numbers, to reduce the number of keystrokes needed to dial frequently used numbers, and can include memory for multiple images, so that multiple images can be transmitted to the same receiving fax machine, one after the other. In addition, the combined unit 48 may be pre-programmed so that the complete image capture and telephone dialing sequence is performed each time the image capture switch is activated.

The invention has been described with reference to certain preferred embodiments thereof. It will be understood, however, that modifications and variations are possible within the scope of the appended claims. For example, although the first illustrated embodiment utilizes a pen-based computer, other types of portable computers with non-interactive displays can be utilized. In such a case, commands and data would be entered via a keyboard, mouse or other data entry devices.

#### INDUSTRIAL UTILITY

The invention provides an electronic camera system that includes a programmable transmission capability for selectively transmitting electronic image data to a plurality of remote base units. The camera system is particularly suited to applications, such as news gathering operations, in which it is desirable to capture images in remote field locations and transmit the images to a base station for subsequent review, distribution or publication.

#### Parts List

10 Camera Module  
12 Pen-based Computer  
14 RF Transmitter Module  
16 Display Screen  
18 Optical Viewfinder  
20 Capture Switch  
22 Lens  
24 Flash Unit  
26 Computer Bus Connector  
27 Mounting Clips  
28 Aperture  
30 Shutter Mechanism  
32 Filter  
34 Electronic Imaging Unit  
36 Electronic Imaging Sensor

38 CCD Driver Unit  
40 Image Signal Processor  
42 Camera Control Processor  
44 Light Measuring Unit  
46 Driver Unit  
48 Telephone/Camera Unit  
50 Lens  
52 Flash Unit  
54 Antenna  
56 Display Screen  
58 Keypad  
60 Internal Bus  
62 Control Processing Unit  
64 Memory Unit Parts List (cont'd)  
66 Cellular Transceiver  
68 Camera Module

What is claimed is:

1. A portable handheld telephone system for selectively communicating with at least one of a plurality of receiving units, comprising:

- (a) a telephone keypad for selecting a particular receiving unit;
- (b) an image sensor for capturing image data;
- (c) a memory for storing the captured image data;
- (d) a control processor responsive to an image transmission mode signal indicating a type of image transmission mode receivable by the selected receiving unit for converting the stored image data into data which can be received by the selected receiving unit; and
- (e) a portable transceiver/receiver including an antenna for transmitting the converted image data to the selected receiving unit in a format corresponding to the image transmission mode receivable by the selected receiving unit.

2. The portable handheld telephone system of claim 1, further including an image display for displaying the stored captured image.

3. The portable handheld telephone system of claim 1, wherein the memory can store a plurality of captured image data.

4. The portable handheld telephone system of claim 1, further including flash unit.

5. The portable handheld telephone system of claim 1, wherein the memory stores phone numbers for the receiving unit.

6. The portable handheld telephone system of claim 1 wherein the image transmission uses facsimile modes.

7. The portable handheld telephone system of claim 6, wherein the facsimile modes include Group IV facsimile and color facsimile.

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